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EUROPEAN AGENDA ON MIGRATION

The Mid-term review of the European Agenda on Migration shows the impact of EU migration management over the past two years on reducing the incentives for irregular migration, strengthening the protection of our external borders, upholding the duty to assist refugees and enhancing legal pathways to Europe. The Commission also presents next steps towards a stronger, more effective and fairer EU migration and asylum policy:

- In the next two years, EU countries will resettle at least 50,000 refugees from neighbouring countries, such as Turkey and Libya. These are people who have been recognized as refugees by the UNHCR, and are thus eligible for asylum. The European Commission does not want to *force* EU Member States to participate in this relocation, but aims to *seduce* them with, for example, financial support. The Commission reserves 500 million Euros to this end - that is €10.000 per refugee.
- The European Commission plans to finance pilot projects in 2018 on labour migration. Together with the business community, European labour shortages will be mapped. The employees that are needed will then be recruited in countries that cooperate in forced returns of undocumented migrants.
- The European Commission aims to adopt a more effective return policy. To this end, it proposes that the European Border and Coast Guard (also known as Frontex) is given more powers, and will develop a 'proactive approach' with a new return department. Countries of origin should be motivated to cooperate by rewarding them with legal labour migration options; thus linking the second and the third element together.

[Read more →](#) (27.9.17)

1. BASIC RIGHTS

Dutch Administrative High Court: when do you receive family benefits retrospectively?

A decision by the Dutch Administrative High Court makes clear that family benefits will be paid retrospectively for 1 year if the status is being granted retrospectively. However, if the applicant applied for family benefit longer than 1 year ago, family benefit can be paid retrospectively up to 5 years. See [here](#) (Dutch only).

Council of State: allowances during procedure against revoking B9

This case deals with the question whether a right to allowances applies during a procedure. The person involved had a human trafficking status and then applied for extended residence. The appeal was declared well-founded, however, the Council of State later annulled the decision. According to the Council of State there was no legitimate residence during the appeal and thus no entitlement to allowances. See [here](#) (Dutch only).

Council of State: rights of children born of bigamous relationships

This case is about a man who was married bigamously in Egypt. His first marriage had been acknowledged in the Netherlands and he had one child of this marriage. He also had three children of his bigamous marriage. The first marriage has since been dissolved. The Council of State has decided that the three children of the bigamous marriage can thus be considered as his children. See [here](#) (Dutch only).

2. ADMISSION POLICY

Council of State: start of relationship counts as starting date for residence with EU partner

According to EU law, a residence permit with a partner with an EU nationality is declaratory, i.e., that the right of residence exists on the basis of the situation, even if the government has not acknowledged it. Thus, the starting date of the rights of residence is not the same as the issuing date of the residence permit. This becomes important if the relationship is broken, for independent residence starts after three years' residence with an EU partner. See [here](#) (Dutch only).

3. CHECK AND DETENTION

Council of State: alien detention is allowed in spite of permanent address

Since this man has a permanent address, the court had decided that he did not need to be detained. However, the Council of State has decided that he has not sufficiently cooperated on his departure and that a duty to report will not induce him to do so. That is why he must remain in detention. See [here](#) (Dutch only).

4. ACTIVITIES

Three-day training for women: I'm here to stay! - Information meeting 12Oct 10-12 a.m. Utrecht

In the training, we'll use various work forms to explore and discover who you are, what your roots are and what your baggage is. We'll dwell on the themes of violence and discrimination that have a vast impact on women's self-image and social position. Together, we'll work at enhancing your mental resilience by letting your voice be heard and occupying your rightful place.

Are you considering taking part? Then come to the information meeting on 12 October, 10:00 till 12:00 a.m. at Stichting de Graal, Nieuwe Gracht 51, Utrecht. The training itself is to take place on three Tuesdays (24 Oct, 31 Oct and 7 Nov 2017) from 09:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. It is important to attend all three sessions. Participating is free of charge and includes lunch. Participants will receive a certificate conditional to full participation.

You can register with: rachelle.degraal@gmail.com. If you need further information feel free to call 06 40731527

Sign Locked in Limbo, against alien detention of stateless persons (before 11 October)

The European Network on Statelessness has launched the #LockedInLimbo campaign, urging European states to put in place effective systems to identify and protect stateless people who are otherwise left at risk of repeated and prolonged detention.

You can read the full statement (translated into 13 languages), check who's supporting the campaign, and add your signature online at: <http://lockedinlimbo.eu/updates/join-our-call-lockedinlimbo/>

Debate: the EU 'take-back' agreements with African countries, 10okt 17-18.30u CEPS Brussel

This seminar will consider the merits of two proposals put forward by migration experts to better manage migration flows across the Mediterranean. First, the need to open up more legal pathways to the EU. Second, they insist that a sustainable EU asylum system needs to provide stronger motivations to countries of origin to take back rejected asylum seekers.

Gerald Knaus, Chairman of the European Stability Initiative and architect of the EU-Turkey agreement, will present concrete ideas on how these two approaches can be combined to form effective EU 'take-back' agreements with African countries. Please [click here](#) for full agenda.